

Peter Hog to George Washington, May 14, 1756, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM CAPTAIN PETER HOG.

FORT DINWIDDIE 14 May 1756

SIR/

On Saturday the 9th: Instant I rec'd advice that the Track of 7 Indians had been discovered at the house of Vanderpool at the head of this Rivr: by two Men of the party detached from my Company for the protection of Mesrs: Millers & Wilson's Families; I immediately ordered a Sergt. to gett a party ready to March next Mornng. to join the 2d. Detachment. & goe in Search of the 2d. Tracts

But that Evening a Messenger arrived Express from the plantation of Robt. Armstrong to Inform me that 6 Indians had Called at the house that Morning & Spoke in their own tongue to the Woman, Signified that they were going to War agt. the Cherokees Called themselves Senekas & Wanted to goe down the Rivr. Immediatly Sent Ensign Fleming Wt. 12 Men & a Sergt. Who arrived there that Night tho' the Rivr. was so high that 3 of the Men Lost their Arms & it was near Sun Sett before the Messenger gott to the Fort the party of 8 Men & Sergt. gott to the head of the Rivr. on Monday where they Tracted the Indians from Vanderpool's house down along Back Rivr. & By the Account given by the Ensign they were the same who Came thro' the Gap at Armstrong's where he traced them down the Rivr. down this Rivr. near Dunlops place & there they seemed to have turned back & soon

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after the Tracts were Lost by which he Imagined they had taken a Spur of the Mountain towards Green Briar.

on Thursday the 13th: a Messenger arrived from Alexr Galespies abt. 12 Mile from the Fort to Acquaint me that 2 Girls belonging to his Family being out after the Cattle as they were digging some Roots of Ginsang heard the tread of feet Crossing a dry Run at the foot of the Spur which on Looking up they discovered to be 2 Indians. I Sent off a Sergt. Wt. 10 Men & a Corporal from the parade as the Compay. happened to be under Arms, it was then abt 6 o'Clock in the Evening they came on the tracts but could not make them out far as they look up the Side of a Stony Mountain. I sent out another Command to day But after a Large Range they could only discover their Tracts at the Draughts of the Mountain where the Ground was Soft & then they appeared to have no direct Course this afternoon Felix Gilberts Came up from Armstrongs & told me that on Wed. Evening Nicolas Canute being out a hunting as he sat on a tree to Listen for his Dogs was Shot at by 5 dift: pieces on Starting up he saw an Indn: running up to him wt. a Tomhawk & another run a Cross to head him. he took to a tree & his pursuers soon Concealed themselves behind others he fired his Rifle at the head of one & going to Load he missed his Shot Bag which had been Carried away by one of the Shots another wounded his Side he then took to his heels & reaced Armstrongs in a Miles distance where I had a Corporal Command ever since the first Alarm. This eveng. I saw a party of the Militia who were going to sd. place where they were Stationed & they told me that the other Compay: would be on the other parts of the Rivr. tomorrow, On the Whole I Believe they are only Spies But that we may Expect a Visett soon, I formerly desired your Concurrence to Lineing & Covering the passage to the Water as it would be attended Wt. some Expenche But you did not give me any Answer as it is absolutely Necessary in case the Garrison is Attacked I have Sett abt: in as frugal & Imperfect away as I can to make it answer the End. I Inclosed one Return to you of the 3d April the day of my Arrival here & desired the 2 Months pay for the Company might be Sent up, as also Cash to Compleat the Company, there is now 3 Months due and the Men very Clamorous for their money & Cloathes as Indeed they are greatly in Want of

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both most of them having neither Shoes Stockings nor Coats. You will See by the Inclosed Returns that I have Enlisted 2 Men since my Arrival & would probably have gott more if I had money. Henry Shelly a Batman is so Grievously tormented wt: Convulsive Fitts that he is of no manner of Use But rather a Burthen as he requires 2 Men to Attend him when the Fitts are on him which are seldom Less than once a day. he offers to gett another good Man in his Room But I would not discharge him Untill I had your Approbation, there is also one Robt. Bridget a Recruit of Mr Flemings who is a Soft sort of Fellow & dull of Hearing. He was imprest into the Service just before the Expiration of the Act. I should take it as a particular favr. if you would allow me to Accept of a Likely Young Fellow in his Stead which he is Willing to procure by his own Industry, and Which the Officers shall allow to be fitter for the Service. There is the Arrears due to the Recruits that were draughted from the other officers Last spring which I now Send you an Accot. of as also the pay from 29th: Decr. to the 1st. Mar. 55 due to Jno. Roe & 4 Months from 29th: Sept. Due to me that I hope will be Sent up with the pay as the Men think it hard that those under Majr. Lewis should be payed & they Left out of it, I now Send the Pay Roll for Sept which was made out but forgot to be Inclosed in the hurry of my Going off I can find no Conveyance to Send the Receipts & Send this to meet wt. one at Court I am respectfully

SIR

Your Very hum Servt PETR. HOG